

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4-14, and 16-48 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants amend Claims 2 and 5 and cancel Claim 3.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 9-11, 16-21, 27-30, and 34-48 are allowed, and that claims 3, 12, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 22, 23, 25, 26, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruby et al. (U.S. 6,424,237) and as evidenced by Applicants' prior art of Ketcham. Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruby et al. in view of Larson, III et al. (U.S. 6,215,375). Claims 24 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruby et al. in view of Bradley et al. (U.S. 6,462,631).

Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to recite the features of allowable Claim 3. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruby et al. and as evidenced by Applicants' prior art of Ketchum is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 4-14, and 16-48 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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